

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 14-18 and 26-29 are currently pending in the application; with claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 5, 9-12, 14-18 and 26-29 were pending prior to the Office Action.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration thereof in light of the amendments and comments contained herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

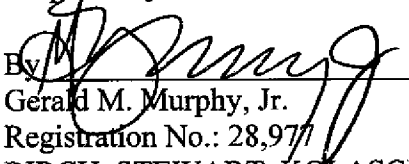
In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Corina E. Tanasa, Limited Recognition No. L0292 under 37 CFR §11.9(b), at telephone number (703) 208-4003, located in the Washington, DC area, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By .
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